

# The Edito

The Wasatch Wave  
Utah Press Association Member  
Established March 23, 1889

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"The Wasatch Wave" (UPSP 666820) is published weekly for \$12. per year in Wasatch County and \$18. out of the county by Wave Publishing, Inc., 675 West 100 South, Heber City, Utah 84032. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Wasatch Wave P.O. Box 128, Heber City, Utah 84032.

## Road to Flood Prevention Already Rough

3 July 1986

"There's trouble right here in River City" will be an apt title for an editorial next spring when the snow melt roars across Heber again, if we don't get going soon to prevent it.

Permanent flood control is a priority for both county and city officials. But it must be a cooperative effort, because what the county does in the eastern part of the county will hopefully control water flow across the valley significantly, reducing whatever the city might have to do. And what the city does will determine how the county will complete the job in the western sector.

However, the project is divided, even before it has begun. Heber Mayor Gordon Mendenhall says that Heber City will proceed with its own survey and plan because it is the quickest, most economic and effective alternative for the city. In the meantime the county commissioners have already paid for a survey of the Lake Creek area, prior to putting in a debris basin. They are tentatively committed to extending the study throughout the county, and state representatives agree. Commission Chairman Pete Coleman says there should be one study, one all-encompassing plan, and a single construction project, for the entire county and under its control. He says the commissioners can't formulate a definite course of action, in any event, until they



city's direction.

Both emphatically agree that they must cooperate and avoid duplication of efforts. No one's motives are in question. All city and county representatives and employees are to be congratulated on their zeal to resolve the problem before the people in their jurisdictions are hit with 1987 waters. But, at this point, there are even questions about jurisdiction.

Commissioner Coleman and Mayor Mendenhall have both expressed their determination to coordinate their efforts, and have planned a meeting to iron out the misunderstandings which are already holding up to the process. We urge a speedy resolution of current problems and that future confusion be avoided through ongoing, regularly-scheduled, open communication between all parties involved, until every county resident is reasonably protected from flood damage.

The first flood of 1986 was in February. February 1987 is only eight months away and moving closer. The short, warm season, during which work can be done, is shortening. And the question of who's engineer should do what survey isn't resolved to everyone's satisfaction, yet. Gentlemen, please hurry. The tide's rising.